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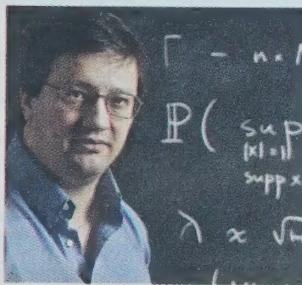
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Going out on top

Wirth Institute director retiring

Volume 48 Issue 12 | February 25, 2011 | www.ualberta.ca/folio

Steacie Fellowship will fund pure math research



Alexander Litvak

Brian Murphy

A University of Alberta mathematician has returned from Ottawa with a \$250,000 grant for his work developing new math theories.

Alexander Litvak received an E.R.W. Steacie Fellowship, one of only six given nationwide by NSERC to outstanding researchers 40 and younger. The grant will support Litvak's research for two years and gives his department funding for a teaching replacement.

"The benefits of pure math research are not immediate," he says, although this type of research is "an investment in the future and in as yet unknown applications for our theoretical work."

Litvak says that much of the technology we take for granted today, such as the computer and digital communication devices like cell phones and the GPS, are the result of research in pure mathematics. "Throughout history the pursuit of abstract theories in mathematics has pushed sciences forward, sciences like astronomy, physics and engineering," said Litvak.

This is the 10th Steacie Fellowship awarded to the U of A in the last decade. "The award also underscores the importance and recognition for basic research done at this university," said President Indira Samarasekera.

Litvak likens the speculative nature of his mathematical research to circumstances that led Scottish physicist and mathematician James Clark Maxwell to develop the theory of electromagnetism in the 19th century.

"Maxwell could have spent his time developing a better candle. But he experimented with electricity. No one knew if it would pay off, but it did and now we have electric lights."

Shoot and win

At the Feb. 19 Golden Bears basketball game, the final game played at the University of Alberta's Main Gym, Colin Hoehne walked away with his tuition for a semester as part of the Alumni Association's Shoot To Win contest.



President applauds university for strength over past year

Heiren Poon

The quality of education and research offered at the University of Alberta has not only weathered the tumult of the past year, but also has grown and improved.

Those results are due to the efforts of the university's community, said President Indira Samarasekera, when she presented the first general address of her second term on Feb. 15 at the Myer Horowitz Theatre in the Students' Union Building.

"The kind of reach, impact and influence we have on the national and international post-secondary stage is not easily achieved or maintained," she said. "It is the product of tremendous commitment, hard work and ingenuity on the part of the faculty, staff and students of the U of A. That dedication—your dedication—has been especially critical this past year."

Efforts made in every unit, department and faculty have prevent-

ed some of the worst-case scenarios that were presented 18 months ago, said Samarasekera.

"Major decisions, such as the taking of furlough days, were instrumental—indeed the furlough days saved hundreds of jobs," she said. "I also think of the myriad smaller efficiencies that have been found and have—in total—meant that we continue to fulfill the university's core teaching and research mission to very high standards."

As the university progresses, it's important to remain focused, Samarasekera told the audience.

"As we move forward, we continue to set goals and objectives that underscore our belief that, as a research-intensive university, the U of A should offer undergraduate students a qualitatively different experience than that of Alberta's smaller universities," she said. "To that end, our focus is on increasing undergraduate participation in research projects and finding innovative methods for bringing current research into the classroom."



Indira Samarasekera

"The kind of reach, impact and influence we have on the national and international post-secondary stage is the product of tremendous commitment, hard work and ingenuity on the part of the faculty, staff and students of the U of A. That dedication—your dedication—has been especially critical this past year."

Indira Samarasekera

The university continues to pursue research questions that matter to the wider society, and is continually improving the administrative systems that facilitate teaching, learning and discovery, she said.

"I am sometimes asked if we should still aspire to be in the company of the world's top public universities in light of our current financial realities. I believe that we are and that we should be," she said. "The U of A has—as do so many of our students—tremendous, as yet unrealized, potential. As teachers and mentors, we encourage our students to attempt what they don't believe they can do—and we urge them to embrace opportunities that push them through self-perceived limits."

"As president of the U of A, I can do no less with this institution when I see such potential in this university's intellectual capacity for leadership."

Feedback requested

President Samarasekera invites non-academic staff to join her from noon–1 p.m. March 4 in 3-15 University Hall for lunch and a roundtable discussion regarding the institution and its direction as it moves forward. This is an open dialogue and your active participation is appreciated. Space is very limited and pre-registration is required.

RSVP at www.president.ualberta.ca/eventrsvp.cfm. Enter code: 1098

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The University of Alberta maintains a database of all alumni. This database is used to send you news about the U of A, including folio and *New Trail*, invitations to special events and requests for support. On Sept. 1, 1999, post-secondary institutions were required to comply with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation of the province of Alberta. In accordance with this legislation, please respond to one of the following options:

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Extension welcomes First Nations' children's advocate

Bev Betkowski

A renowned advocate for First Nations children's rights and a leading First Nations organization have partnered with the University of Alberta to uplift the rights and potential of Aboriginal children and families, strengthening the university's commitment to engage with Aboriginal communities.

A dynamic partnership between the Faculty of Extension and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada begins this month as the executive director of the society, Cindy Blackstock, joins the Faculty of Extension.

The U of A's collaboration with Blackstock and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada—a groundbreaking First Nations human-rights organization leading the way in Aboriginal children's rights—will result in meaningful research, discovery and action for children said Katy Campbell, dean of the Faculty of Extension.

"I am especially excited about the two-way community-based learning and engagement opportunities for the



Cindy Blackstock

university community and the communities involved with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada," Campbell said. "University-community engagement anchors our faculty's mission and mandate through *Dare to Discover*."

Blackstock, who holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, a master's degree in management and a PhD in social work, will be teaching graduate students at the U of A, sharing her advocacy for the rights of indigenous children in Canada and around the globe. A member of the Gitksan Nation in British Columbia, Blackstock has worked in the field of child and family services for more than 20 years and founded two successful First Nations non-profit organizations.

The author of more than 50 publications, her key interests include exploring and addressing the causes of disadvantage for Aboriginal children, by promoting equitable and culturally based interventions.

"I believe we can have a Canada where First Nations children can grow up proud of who they are, with the same opportunity as other Canadian children," Blackstock said. "I'm hoping

to foster meaningful partnerships between First Nations and the University of Alberta that promote the human and cultural rights of First Nations children and families."

Through Blackstock and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, students will explore the issues facing Aboriginal children and families and learn about the workings of effective systemic advocacy and policy. The university will also support and make available to students the society's *First Peoples Child & Family Review*, a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary research, practice and policy focused on Aboriginal perspectives, while respecting indigenous cultural property rights.

The partnership between Blackstock, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the U of A strengthens the faculty's ongoing commitment to working with Aboriginal and other external communities to promote learning and beneficial research, working hand-in-hand with those communities, Campbell said.

"These communities bring important world views and knowledge that must be respected and encouraged in academia, and universities also have a responsibility to work with Aboriginal communities in ways that uplift their aspirations."

Partnering with Blackstock and the

"I believe we can have a Canada where First Nations children can grow up proud of who they are, with the same opportunity as other Canadian children."

Cindy Blackstock

First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada "is a significant addition to Aboriginal initiatives that already exist within our faculty and at the university," Campbell noted.

Blackstock, in partnership with indigenous peoples around the globe, has supported the development of United Nations instruments on indigenous child rights. This provides an opportunity for U of A scholars and students across campus to explore the connections between the human and indigenous rights of Aboriginal peoples in Canada to the experience of those in other parts of the world, Campbell added.

"We are excited about Cindy's passion and her ability to bring people along in a transformative way that creates positive change for children and their families."

Masliyah honoured by the National Academy of Engineering

Kathleen Cameron

Distinguished university professor emeritus Jacob Masliyah has been elected as a foreign associate to the American National Academy of Engineering. Academy membership honours those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice or education, and is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

"It is a pleasure to receive this honour from the U.S.," says Masliyah. "Most of my recognition has been within Canada, and now I'm getting international recognition—that is very hard to achieve while working in oilsands research."

Masliyah has been elected to the Earth Resources Engineering section of the academy, based on his contributions to science and technology in oilsands research. This section involves engineering applied to the discovery, development and environmentally responsible production of subsurface earth resources.

"My expertise in oilsands will be a good milieu to 'educate' my American colleagues about the status of oilsands, and where we stand in terms of carbon dioxide emissions, water usage and tailings ponds," he says.

"Election to the American National Academy of Engineering, especially as a foreign associate, is one of the highest honours an engineer can receive," said President Samarasakera. "Given his research accomplishments and the impact he has had over his remarkable career, Jacob is most deserving of this recognition. My congratulations to him."

Masliyah is one of only 13

Canadians accorded the honour since the NAE was founded in 1964. Two other U of A professors are included in

this list: George Govier, inducted in 1979, who served as professor and chair of the chemical and petroleum engineering department, and as dean of engineering; and Norbert Morgenstern, inducted in 1992, a distinguished university professor emeritus in civil and environmental engineering.

Masliyah has achieved great success during his 34 years at the U of A. His long list of honours includes



Jacob Masliyah

the Order of Canada, the ASTech Award for Outstanding Leadership in Alberta Technology and the R.S. Jane Memorial Award. He was also named a fellow to the Canadian Academy of Engineers and the Royal Society of Canada and served as the NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Oil Sands Engineering and as a Canada Senior Research Chair.

Masliyah does not take sole credit

for his achievements: "We have a great department chair and we have a great dean. Everything is in place here for you to succeed. The sky is the limit as long as you can perform. Our leaders are always there to help, and we are very fortunate for that."

"Looking back on my career, if I look at the overall success that we have had, it was to have the industry recognize that only through the application of science can we resolve the challenges that we have," he says. "That idea has permeated the industry, and I think our work at the U of A has helped a lot with that."

Researchers discover how a virus cheats death

Raquel Maurier

A team of researchers in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta has taken an important step forward in the study of virology by discovering how a common virus cheats death by allowing the viral disease to spread throughout the body.

Now the team wants to see if similar viruses work the same way. Their findings could have major implications for improving the health of millions and may prevent deaths, since this discovery could arm medical scientists with the ability to shut down many viruses at an earlier stage.

Viruses invade host cells and replicate inside them. One of the body's immune responses is to trigger cells to "commit suicide" if they are infected or sick. However, Tom Hobman and his fellow researchers, Carolina Ilkow and Ing Swie Goping, found out how the rubella virus, responsible for

German measles, blocks cell death, thereby allowing the virus to spread. Rubella virus, a type of RNA virus, is responsible for more birth defects worldwide than any other infectious agent. These viruses cause the vast majority of viral diseases in humans, including AIDS, influenza, hepatitis C, West Nile disease and Dengue fever.

Hobman's team suspected that RNA viruses block the pathways in cells that lead to cell suicide. This was the opposite of what many scientists would have expected. The U of A research team found that when cells are infected with rubella virus, cell suicide is delayed or blocked.

They also discovered that a protein, which is generally thought to function only as a building block, actually plays a key role in stopping the process that triggers cell death. This so-called "capsid" protein in the virus acts like a sponge and soaks up a protein in the cell known as Bax, which is crucial in the process triggering the cell to commit suicide.

"This discovery was surprising

but gratifying at the same time," says Hobman. "Previously, no one had given any thought to any potential function of this capsid protein."

Hobman's team then decided to conduct some reverse genetic experiments and mutated the capsid protein. This impaired the ability of the virus to replicate itself, because cells committed suicide much earlier in the infection process and more often.

The team's findings have been published in the journal *PLoS Pathogens*.

Hobman and his colleagues are now studying the West Nile and Dengue fever viruses to see if those viruses prevent cell suicide in a similar fashion. He hopes the team's discovery will one day lead to viral infections being limited and shut down at an earlier stage.

Hobman is an authority on host-virus interactions in cells infected with rubella and West Nile viruses. He wrote the chapter on rubella in a widely used textbook on viruses.

"This discovery was surprising

Gene discovery could lead to cancer therapies

Quinn Phillips

One of the most important genes in the human genome is called p53 and its function is to suppress tumours, says Roger Leng, a researcher in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. Leng has discovered the mechanism by which p53 is inactivated in cancerous cells, allowing tumours to grow.

"Successful completion of the proposed experiments could lead to novel anti-cancer therapies that could potentially improve the prognosis for cancer patients and reduce the public-health burden from cancer," said Leng.

It has long been known by scientists that another protein, MDM2, lowers p53 in the body but in cancerous cells p53 is inactivated in more than 50 per cent of all human tumours. MDM2 does not have the ability to functionally silence the tumour-suppressing protein on its own, leaving scientists wondering what molecule in the body is helping MDM2 to nearly eliminate p53 in cancerous cells.

Leng's lab has answered that question and the culprit is called UBE4B. Leng made the discovery because he found that UBE4B binds with both p53 and MDM2. From there his lab was able to discover the relationship between the proteins.

Paired with MDM2, also known as HDM2 in humans, the two proteins completely degrade p53 in a laboratory model. This is a process known as poly-ubiquitination, which means a specific protein completely disappears in a cell.

They also did experiments on several cancerous human brain tissues and found the same results.

"They have the same function," said the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Scholar and Canadian Institutes of Health Research-funded scientist. "The idea now is you can target UBE4B, and MDM2 won't function."

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Doris Corrigan, whose name was drawn as part of folio's Feb. 11 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Corrigan correctly identified the photo in question as the copper chimney above the gas-supplied fireplace flame on the main floor of the Student's Union Building.

For her efforts, Corrigan has won the much-sought-after Butterdome butter dish.

Because we at folio love butter and Butterdomes, another Butterdome butter dish will be up for grabs this week. To win, simply email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, March 4, and you will be entered into the draw.

Dinosaurs may have flourished near the south pole

Brian Murphy

University of Alberta researchers have more evidence from their recent trip to Antarctica that dinosaurs didn't just survive in polar regions; they may have actually flourished.

Paleontologist Philip Currie and research associate Eva Koppelhus were part of a six-week mission to Antarctica to extract the fossil of the *Cryolophosaurus*, a dinosaur first spotted by an American expedition 20 years ago. The fossilized remains of the meat-eating dinosaur were found on Antarctica's Mount Kirkpatrick in 1991 and Currie says they didn't have to look far from there to find new treasures.

"In an area about half the size of a football field we found partial skeletons representing [what could be] as many as three more species of dinosaur," said Currie. "And we found teeth of small meat eaters, representing at least one more species, mixed in with remains of the larger *Cryolophosaurus*."

Currie says that 60 million years ago, when *Cryolophosaurus* was alive, the landmass of Antarctica was somewhere between its present position and the latitude of present-day Australia. "It wasn't a frozen, barren land like today, but it was still within the south polar region," said Currie. "Because we found so many fossils of plant eaters and meat eaters in such a small area, it shows a diversity of dinosaur species could

adapt to both temperate and polar climates."

The fossils are still aboard a ship bound for North America, but researchers will be looking at how the Antarctic dinosaurs dealt with the winters at high latitudes, because even though there were no ice caps at that time, the winters would have been difficult.

Currie says past research has shown that, for example, the eyesight of some dinosaurs, particularly predators, evolved to cope with long, dark winters by developing larger eyes and optic lobes in the brain for better night vision. Scientists are also looking at other evolutionary ways dinosaurs could have evolved to survive the harsh polar climate, including seasonal migration and hibernation.

"Right now we don't have the evidence for hibernation," said Currie. "We don't normally think of large animals sleeping through winter. But bears are big and they hibernate, so it's worth looking at that [scenario] for polar-region dinosaurs."

Expedition organizer William Hammer from Augustana College in Illinois will probably distribute some of the fossils to different locations, including the U of A, which will allow Currie to get a good look at the bones.

"*Cryolophosaurus* was about eight metres in length and [this fossil] is the first and only one ever found," said Currie. "It lived well before dinosaurs such as *Albertosaurus* did, and it can tell us a lot about the development and evolution of carnivorous dinosaurs."



Philip Currie near Antarctica's Mount Kirkpatrick

History professor takes U of A's highest research honour

Michael Davies-Venn



John-Paul Himka

John-Paul Himka is animated as he talks about the importance of bringing research in the field into the classroom. The professor in the Department of History and Classics says the reasons are plenty but he is most passionate about the ones that benefit his students.

"I find that when you're working on something, trying to figure out answers by yourself, students can see when the light goes on in your eyes, when the dots connect. Nothing is as good for teaching as having students genuinely see you figure something out before their eyes," he said.

While researching his latest book looking into iconography of the Eastern church, Himka was holding one of his seminars outlining his research topic, complete with religious icons.

"A young man—he's now a professor—said to me, 'why is everybody in Hell naked in these icons, except for the tavern maid. Why is the tavern maid clothed?'

"That question tortured me for a very long time," Himka said. "I remem-

teaching & learning, learning & teaching

ber driving through many long roads in Romania thinking, 'why is the tavern maid clothed?' (The maid was copied directly from a Gothic fresco.) And it was something I only solved just as I was writing the book. But I did not feel I understood the book until I figured out his question. That student's question proved to be a key element in identifying the local Gothic origins of some elements in these last judgment icons."

He adds, "What's the point of having a professor teach you if they can't bring things to you that they know that hardly anybody else knows?"

In recognition of this passion for inspiring his students, Himka was awarded the J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research in 2010. The purpose of the award is to recognize and honour faculty members who research contributions are significant, and who sets a standard for excellence for other University of Alberta faculty and students. Himka's body of work, as a professor and a researcher, fits both those criteria well.

Himka measures the time he has

been at the U of A in decades. For example, he says for a couple of them, much of his work was concerned with the genealogical history of Western Ukraine. His research also includes a social history of Eastern Europe, the Holocaust, the history of the world in the last 10 years and the iconography of the Eastern church.

Himka's most recent book, *Last Judgment Iconography in the Carpathians*, is also his favourite. It's also one that saw Himka criss-cross Europe for more than 10 years, searching for and photographing religious icons.

"It's by far the most original book I've ever written," says Himka. "It takes about 100 images, which were produced in a small region, and compares them with images in neighbouring regions over the centuries. Just by doing so, it tells stories about the people who created the images. So instead of being textually based, like most history books, it shows a history based largely on images and what images tell us and what they imply. It is a pretty innovative book."



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Kindergarten to Grade 6 (Garmeau School)

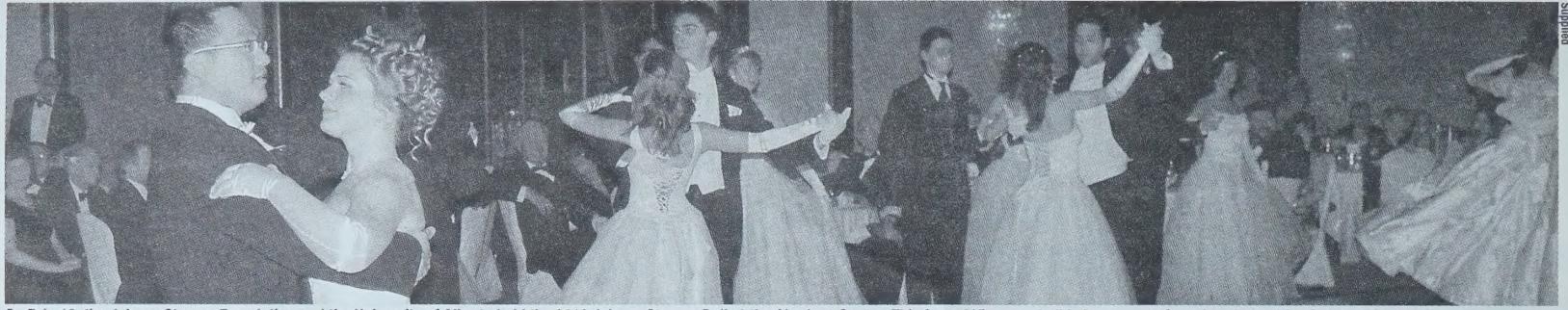
Kindergarten to Grade 6 registration for 2011/2012 begins March 1, 2011.

For more information on Kindergarten to Grade 6, visit our website, email, or call Garmeau at 780.433.1390.



www.childstudycentre.ualberta.ca

childstudycentre@ualberta.ca



On Feb. 12, the Johann Strauss Foundation and the University of Alberta held the 2010 Johann Strauss Ball at the Aberhart Centre. This formal Viennese ball is in support of music scholarships for study in Austria.

The U of A senate: the university's portal to the community

The University of Alberta can be a complicated entity with many moving parts. University 101 exists to assist the campus community in better understanding who does what and how things get done at the U of A.

Michael Brown

The first Universities Act in 1907 charged the University of Alberta Senate with determining both "the educational policy and the financial management of the new university."

A tall order to begin with; however, a century of change has altered that original overarching mandate.

Starting in 1910, a new act created the university's board of governors, shifting the senate's full governing powers to the board, and changing senate's composition, powers and functions to

include mostly academic matters.

Another major shift began on May 12, 1941, when the full senate voted against its Honorary Degrees Committee's recommendation to award an honorary degree to Premier William Aberhart. The fallout from this decision helped write the 1942 Universities Act, which shifted the senate's remaining academic purview to the newly created General Faculties Council.

"The role of the senate, over time, has evolved to be more a reflection of community interests in the university," said Linda Hughes, U of A chancellor and chair of the senate.

Today, the Post-Secondary Learning Act outlines the duties of the senate,

including "to inquire into any matter that might benefit the university and enhance its position in the community."

Hughes explains the modern-day senate is an advisory body of more than 60 community volunteers and university representatives, which meets four times each year, to provide a bridge between the university and the communities it serves. It also provides a forum in which issues about post-secondary education may be discussed and debated.

"Senate members strive to communicate the needs and views of Albertans to the university and the Alberta government, and to interpret to the public the many different facets of the



Linda Hughes

University 101

university," said Hughes. "To accomplish this, ad hoc committees or working groups may be set up to consider specific issues or undertake particular projects."

Hughes says the senate may require a report from any part of the university, and it may receive and consider submissions from any member of the public. The senate also retains the power to confer honorary degrees.

"The chancellor, the ceremonial head of the university, together with the office of the senate and the office of the registrar, is responsible for convocation—the ceremony itself and the conferral of degrees," said Hughes.

Although the past century has brought a lot of change to the role of the senate, its essence remains—to serve the best interests of the university, or as Hughes' senate mandate simply states, to "inquire, promote and connect."

"The mandate of the senate is to bring community issues to the university, and university issues to the community, and senators promote the values of both the university and post-secondary education," said Hughes. ■

Senate make up

The senate includes 30 elected members of the public, who represent affiliated colleges or institutions, geographical areas and groups, and organizations with an interest in the university. The senate also includes:

- Nine members of the public, appointed by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology;
- Two members of the non-academic staff, appointed by AET;
- Two appointees from the board of governors;
- Three appointees from General Faculties Council;
- Two appointees from Deans' Council;
- Two appointees from the Alumni Association;
- Four students appointed by the Students' Union and one student appointed by the Graduate Students' Association;
- The chancellor, the president, the provost and vice-president (academic), the dean of extension, the dean of students and the president and vice-president of the Alumni Association are senate members ex officio.

Festival of Teaching continues to engage the open door

Colleen Skidmore, vice-provost (academic)

Co-chair Anne Naeth and I cordially invite you to participate in this year's Festival of Teaching from March 7-10. This year's festival contains some very important changes. We've expanded from one to four days and we've opened up the celebration beyond North Campus to Campus Saint-Jean and a special day-long event at Augustana Campus.

We've also incorporated a keynote address to kick off the third annual festival. Maria Klawe, a distinguished alumna, will return to campus where her mother was a professor to speak on "Teaching trials and triumphs." Klawe, who is president of California's Harvey Mudd College, will give her address at 5 p.m. on the subject the first day of the festival at the Telus Centre.

Perhaps the most significant change, and the one we hope many of you will take part in,

the "Festival of Classes," an opportunity for festival participants to observe great teaching in action. We wanted this year's festival to be active—one that is not just about teaching, but one where actual teaching is taking place.

More than 60 talented and passionate professors are opening their classrooms to their fellow instructors to share what they and their students are doing. Their generous invitation to be part of this new festival component is a testament to their dedication and commitment to teaching. We hope you will take away ideas, share thoughts and engage in the discussion of teaching and teaching styles that you have access to as part of the festival.

The closing day of the festival will see the return of the banner presentations, a staple of our previous successful festivals. There will also be a TED-esque event entitled "Festival Talks." Five short presentations centring on the subject of

"Where Talent Meets Passion" will be moderated by the Hon. James Edwards, former U of A chancellor. These events will also be held at the Telus Centre.

Registration to observe selected classes across campuses, including Augustana and CSJ, is now open. For those interested in traveling to attend Augustana Campus' events, transportation will be provided to allow Edmonton-based professors to attend classes offered by their Camrose colleagues. Dean Roger Epp will host a panel discussion at the conclusion of the day's events.

We are proud to be part of an event as ambitious and important as this on campus. We hope you will join us and share our pride.

For more information please visit www.provost.ualberta.ca/FestivalofTeaching2011/FestivalClasses.aspx or contact karen.unger@ualberta.ca. ■

Current activities and initiatives of the senate

- Nominations for honorary degree recipients: nominations are welcome year round for the university's highest honour.
- Applications to senate: applications for elected volunteer positions on Senate are due on March 1.
- U School: a program that offers elementary and junior high students from the inner city and other communities with socio-economic challenges a full week on campus to explore

life and learning at the University of Alberta.

- Community Conversations with the Chancellor: a series of informal discussions on post-secondary education with leaders in communities across Alberta.
- Senate committees and working groups: focus on areas such as student recruitment and retention, Aboriginal issues and U of A contributions to learning, discovery and citizenship.

Free osteoporosis testing for faculty and staff

Sandra Pyskdywyc

Students in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences have a busy week ahead. In addition to their classes and assignments, students are gearing up for Pharmacist Awareness Week, March 6-10.

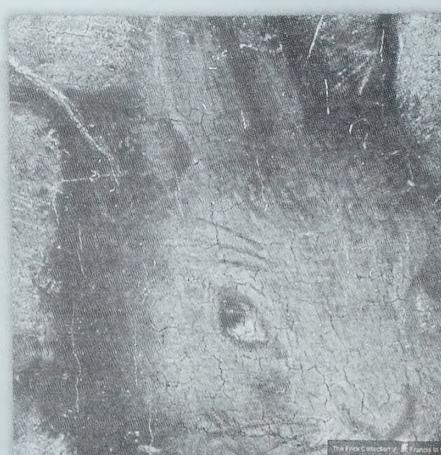
Led by the Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association, or APSA, a number of community and faculty specific events are planned over the course of that week.

The students will be putting their education into practice to offer, along with local pharmacists, free bone scans to any staff members of the University of Alberta. The bone-density clinic will take place on March 9, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the front foyer of the Dentistry/Pharmacy building. Students will measure bone density, and based on the results, offer recommendations on osteoporosis risk and on ways to improve the risk through healthy living.

The students are also offering a blood-pressure screening clinic at Southgate Shopping Centre on March 7 from 1-5 p.m. Pharmacy students, along with a practicing pharmacist/faculty member and a physician, will be in the Centre Court offering free blood-pressure measurements. The students will measure blood pressure and discuss ways for improvement, as well as how to decrease cardiovascular risk through healthy eating and living. Students will also offer current recommendations on salt intake, physical activity and smoking cessation, as well as answer questions people have about their medications.

For more information on Pharmacist Awareness Week events, please visit APSA's website www.pharmacy.ualberta.ca/apsa/. ■

surf city



If you're not up to braving sub-zero temperatures, use the time to take a walk through the world's best art galleries with the Art Project. (www.googleartproject.com) A collaboration with some of the world's most acclaimed art museums enables viewers to discover more than 1,000 artworks online, from museums like the Tate Modern in London to the State Hermitage in St. Petersburg. Explore museums with Street View technology: virtually move around the museum's galleries, selecting works of art that interest you. Navigate through floor plans and learn more about the museum as you explore, using the viewer to zoom into featured paintings. Information panels allow visitors to read more about an artwork, find more works by that artist and watch related YouTube videos.



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A career spent rising to the occasion leads to award

Michael Brown

When Don Hickey took over as vice-president (facilities and operations) early in 2003, he immediately went to work establishing a new culture and value system within his portfolio.

One of the first people he brought aboard to help instill the values that spoke of building trust, client-service focus, communications and change management was long-time university employee Mary Paul.

Eight years later, Facilities and Operations is a model portfolio and Paul has recently been honoured with a University of Alberta's annual administrative and professional officers award.

"Mary helped her vice-president steer through a delicate restructuring of the Facilities and Operations portfolio," wrote one of the people who nominated her for the award. "The changes involved profound alterations to several units. Mary mediated and managed the personalities and eccentricities so well that the portfolio was able to move forward with a renewed focus."

"She is dedicated to the university, to her supervisor and to the people she manages and serves. Not only does she bring the professionalism and

knowledge needed for her demanding position, but also an attitude of calm, respect and care."

In her 21 years on campus, Paul has worked with staff, students and faculty at all levels of the organization, starting in 1990 as program manager in the Faculty of Extension, where she created a Residential Interiors Certificate program that is still successful. However, she says her career before the university was simply a build up for her career at the U of A.

"When I look back at the different places I've worked in the corporate sector, I knew I wanted to work at the university in some capacity where there was an entrepreneurial way of thinking about the business of supporting a large, diverse institution," said Paul. "My experience on this campus has been varied and challenging and I would not have it any other way."

Paul's role today as a senior administrative officer involves leadership in administrative matters such as policy development and items moving through administrative and governing committees, and oversight of the office.

"The position acts as a resource to the university by providing administrative management and

staff spotlight

issues-management support to senior administration within the portfolio, between portfolios and institutionally," said Paul. "While the role gives me many insights into the inner workings of the institution, which is something I find essential in this role, I particularly enjoy the complexity and diversity of facilities and operations. I work alongside talented people who make coming to work every day a pleasure."

Some of Paul's initiatives include initial development of, and communications for, Enterprise Square, representing and co-ordinating the university's involvement in the Francophone Summer Games, development of unit business plans and acting as a central figure in resolving personnel disputes.

No matter what her role is, her colleagues speak of an undying loyalty to the university and to the people she works beside. In return, Paul says she has found the university to be an ideal employer.

"Staff has access to many formal and informal training and work experiences, which deepen our



Mary Paul

knowledge and broaden our understanding," said Paul. "We are surrounded by bright minds, exciting research and many opportunities to make a difference. We can be proud as employees to work at the university. For me, it's always been about the people and making the organization the best that it can be." ■

U of A stuttering institute expands to Calgary

Laurie Wang

Eight-year-old Tyler MacDonald can relate to Colin Firth's character of King George from the movie *The King's Speech*. Just last year, the boy lacked confidence and was too frightened to put up his hand in class because of his stutter.

"He didn't want to be in social settings. He didn't like going to school or hockey," says Terry MacDonald, Tyler's father.

But the University of Alberta's Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research has expanded to Calgary to help people just like Tyler. After ISTAR's speech-therapy treatment, Tyler is now a confident tyke who loves playing hockey. He likes school now too.

"I'm also better friends with my dad," adds Tyler. Before, Tyler inadvertently only talked to his mom most of the time. Now, he and his father are best friends.

"My relationship with my son has improved so much after being involved in his treatment at ISTAR," says Terry. "Tyler's progress in school and sports has improved as a result of his new confidence, because of ISTAR."

The institute at the U of A's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine has been offering specialized treatment to children, teens and adults who stutter since 1986. It is also a world leader in stuttering research. ISTAR has expanded its Calgary office this winter, ensuring Calgarians who stutter have the opportunity to receive the treatment they need.

"Stuttering can have serious emotional, social and vocational consequences for adults and school-age children," says Marilyn Langevin, acting executive director of ISTAR. "It can limit children from reaching their potential in school and limit adults from seeking the work that they, in their hearts, want to do." She adds, "Our recent research shows that stuttering can even prevent preschoolers from participating or leading peers in play. Play is hugely important for children."

"Stuttering affects as many as 11 per cent of preschool children. Expanding our services to Calgary and building awareness around stuttering is important. We want to serve as many Albertans as we can," says Martin Ferguson-Pell, dean of the faculty.

The ISTAR Calgary satellite office is located in just north of downtown in the Hillhurst Building. For more information, visit www.istar.ualberta.ca. ■

UNIVERSITY OF
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DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLGY
FACULTY OF ARTS

Call for Research Proposals

Research and Education on Impaired Driving

The Department of Sociology invites proposals to carry out research on impaired driving (e.g. alcohol, prescription drugs, illegal drugs, cell phones, etc.).

Accrued interest from an endowment established by **Research and Education on Impaired Driving (REID)** will fund the successful proposal(s). The maximum amount available in this competition is **\$12,000**, which may be used to fund one research project or be divided between two (or more) smaller projects. This competition is open to any university member (including faculty, contract instructors, graduate and undergraduate students) conducting research on impaired driving and related social policy problems. It will be adjudicated by a panel of researchers led by the Chair of the Department of Sociology.

Applicants should submit a proposal (maximum five pages, including budget) and current CV to:

Dr. Harvey Krahm, Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta
5-21 HM Tory Building
Edmonton, AB T6G 2H4

The competition closes **March 31, 2011**. If you have any questions, please contact Curtis Champagne, Assistant Chair, at 780-492-0466.

Wirth Institute director to retire at the top

Michael Davies-Vern

A little more than a decade after establishing one of the University of Alberta's premier institutes, Franz Szabo retires as its director on June 30.

Since its creation in 1998, Szabo has been the only director with the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, created at the U of A to raise the profile of central European studies in Canada. In fact, he says the institute he is leaving is one of a kind.

"There are similar institutes in the United States and Europe, but none have the kinds of programming that we have," said Szabo. "The mixture of both academic and cultural activities is something that is also very uncommon."

"I'm leaving a premier centre in a premier institution with solid financial backing and a good relationship with the respective communities and governments that are involved."

John-Paul Himka, U of A history researcher, says Szabo has used diplomacy and vision to build an institute that is important for the university.

"I don't think everybody could do what he has done," said Himka. "His co-workers call him 'the emperor,' because



Franz Szabo

he specializes in the Habsburg Monarchy and he is everything to the institute. Franz is not just a diplomat who brings people together; he also managed to solicit a \$10-million donation. That

doesn't happen every day. He never realized he was a fundraiser, or a diplomat, but he rose to the occasion."

To help celebrate Szabo's legacy, the Czechoslovak Society of the Arts and Sciences of Alberta in Edmonton will be hosting a concert March 2 at Convocation Hall, which will feature the Kapralova String Quartet from Prague.

Paul Jelen, U of A professor emeritus and president of the society, describes Szabo as a caring person, a passionate historian and promoter of the good that the Austro-Hungarian Empire represented. Szabo has also been bridging centuries-old divides among members of the communities from central Europe, while recognizing their differences, Jelen says.

"He told me several times that the institute is the forum in which community members from countries formerly within the Habsburg Monarchy—also commonly called the Austro-Hungarian Empire—can talk about their history and forget their differences and nationalistic preferences," Jelen said.

"At some point, all of these countries

were part of a single country, and that common cultural legacy that they share is a good starting point," for reconciling national differences, Szabo says. "I have tried to look to the future by discouraging some of the national prejudices and emphasizing the degree to which we do indeed have things in common in that part of the world and the significance of that. I've tried to provide the framework where it is possible to see those similarities."

Jelen adds the institute has always played an active role amongst the communities it represents. "Franz felt the reason the institute exists was to help the members of the local communities within the boundaries of the institute, and the institute has always helped in whatever way it could. This concert is our thank you to him for all the great work he has done," he said.

Szabo says community outreach is the singular most important success of the institute, adding 50 per cent of the funds for the doctoral fellowship internship program the institute runs come from the community. The program brings students from Eastern European countries to the U of A.

"I've had the ironic experience where our interns tell me that they've had more experience about central Europe as a whole than they did when they were in their own countries," said Szabo. "At the institute, they get to know each other, understand each other and learn more about their neighbours."

Medical researcher's paper named a 'classic'

Quinn Phillips

Researchers around the world hope their research can make an impact, and Carol Hodgson in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, knows her research has been noticed. Her paper is being added to the journal *Academic Medicine's* "classics."

"It's nice when an article gets read and other people then cite it," said Hodgson. "That's pretty cool and it makes you feel pretty good that people noticed it and read it."

The classics are a group of papers that have been cited 50 or more times, between 1990 and 2010, since publication. Hodgson, whose first paper of a series was published in 2005, says her study



Carol Hodgson

is being noticed because "it's an area so many people are interested in."

The study looked at graduates from three different American medical schools who had been disciplined by the state medical board. It looked at their academic records and compared them with other students who were not disciplined.

Her research found that there are a number of things students do that help predict problems in professionalism down the road, including being late

for clerkships and refusing recommendations to get an immunization before seeing certain patients.

"This study is cool because it was a very long-term study," said Hodgson. "You have to wait a long time because students aren't usually disciplined by

the state medical board when they're residents; it's not until they're out in practice for many years."

Hodgson now wants to work with students and faculty in dentistry and pharmacy at the U of A to see if the same personality traits might spell trouble down the line.

"It'd really be nice to replicate the study in other areas," said Hodgson. "Pharmacy school would be perfect. Pharmacists have access to drugs, and this is a problem if you're going to use drugs—they're right there."

"Considering the frequency of citations within education and research, this is quite an accomplishment to have your work recognized so rapidly by so many," said Marek Michalak, vice-dean of research for the faculty. "Within five years, to reach more than 50 citations and be awarded this recognition, that's an indication of some significant contribution."

Pharmacology's guiding light passes

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta is mourning the sudden death of Susan Dunn, considered by her colleagues to be a gentle and respected chair of the Department of Pharmacology, on Feb. 18. She was 57.

"I offer my deepest condolences at this difficult time, knowing that as much as Susan was a colleague, teacher and mentor, she was also a dear friend to many," said Philip Baker, dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. "Susan was a highly valued member of our faculty and someone I respected immensely."

"Her loss will not just be felt by us personally, but also by the entire academic and scientific community."

Originally from Scotland, Dunn received her PhD at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, England. Following post-doctoral work at the California Institute of Technology and Imperial College London, she was appointed as a professor in the College of Medicine at the University of Iowa prior to coming to the U of A in 1988.

She has spent the majority of her distinguished career at the U of A as a professor in the pharmacology department and at the Centre of Neuroscience.

Her world-renowned research cen-

tered on the molecular pharmacology of neurotransmitter receptors that mediate much of the fast neurotransmission throughout the brain.

In addition to her being named department chair in July of 2008 after serving as deputy chair for the previous five years, Dunn had served as graduate co-ordinator of the department and was a member of numerous committees.

Dunn's teaching, research and professional activities have extended beyond the U of A to include the United States and the United Kingdom. She was widely published and has been invited to present on numerous international occasions. Dunn was a reviewer for many scientific journals and was frequently called upon by funding agencies to review grant proposals.

Beyond her research, Dunn's colleagues remember an instructor who found a commonality with her students, as well as being an exceptional leader.

"In the time she led the department, she was dealing with quite a bit of change within the faculty, but dealt with it vigorously and acted in a way that led pharmacology to be even stronger than it had been in the past," said Bill Dryden, professor emeritus in the department and a long-time friend. "She dealt with everyone in the gentlest of ways. Everybody felt she was on their side."



Susan Dunn

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Computing science rewriting the program to get girls in the game

Jamie Hanlon

A joint research project between the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education and the Department of Computing Science has found that, for high-school girls, the fun is in making video games, not just playing them.

Computing science professor Duane Szafron and fellow U of A researchers Mike Carbonaro, Jonathan Schaeffer and Maria Cutumisu say that women in computing science are rare, but their study shows that if you want to get more females interested in computing science, you have to rewrite the program, so to speak.

"There's been a huge push throughout North America to try and get girls to go into computing science, but [educators are] having a lot of challenges convincing them," said the Faculty of Education's Carbonaro. "The findings are important, as they demonstrate a way to motivate girls' interest in computing science."

In their study, the researchers

wanted to see whether girls would gain as much interest in game development as the boys in the class-control group. To facilitate the experiment, they introduced a group of local Grade 10 students to a program called ScriptEase, a tool that allowed them to develop and design their own games. A key factor in the study was having male participants who had more experience than the females in gaming.

Szafron says that there is an inherent creative component to computing science, and that having a student design and construct something using the tool is one way to allow them to investigate that aspect of computing science. "We thought we should have female students create games and see if they are just as excited about making games as male students and see whether it's an attractor to computing science that is independent of gender," he said.

Their findings indicated that female students enjoyed creating games as much as their male counterparts; further, they preferred game construction to activities such as story writing. Szafron also noted

the female students gained and used practical skills that are crucial to understanding computing science.

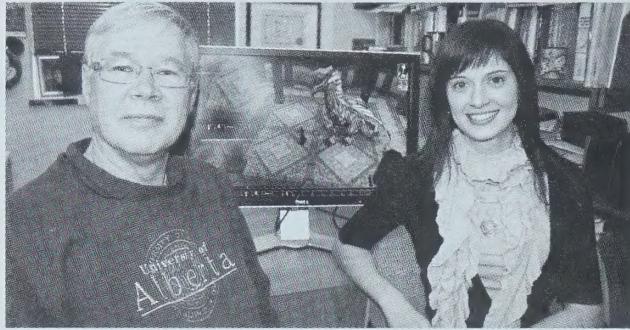
"The female students built games that were every bit as good as the male students made, even though the male students had more experience with playing games," said Szafron. "In terms of the quality of the games developed and the abstraction skills that the students learned, which could translate to knowledge of computing science—and in terms of the amount of fun that they had—there was no

difference between the two groups."

According to Carbonaro, computing science teachers need to look at redesigning the types of projects and content they use in class to make them more "female-user friendly."

"If you want more females in computing science, you need to radically change the curriculum. You need to provide activities that are more gender neutral so that they'll be attracted to the discipline."

The research study was recently published in *Computers and Education*. ■



Computing science professor Duane Szafron and researcher Maria Cutumisu.

Expanded blood inventory to broaden diagnosis options

Brian Murphy

After three years of exhaustive analysis led by a University of Alberta researcher, the list of known compounds in human blood has exploded from just a handful to more than 4,000.

"Right now a medical doctor analyzing the blood of an ailing patient looks at something like 10 to 20 chemicals," said U of A biochemist David Wishart. "We've identified 4,229 blood chemicals that doctors can potentially look at to diagnose and treat health problems."

Blood chemicals, or metabolites, are routinely analyzed by doctors to diagnose conditions like diabetes and kidney failure. Wishart says the new research opens up the possibility of diagnosing hundreds of other diseases that are characterized by an imbalance in blood chemistry.

"This is the most complete chemical characterization of blood ever done."

David Wishart

Wishart led more than 20 researchers at six different institutions using modern technology to validate past research, and the team also conducted its own lab experiments to break new ground on the content of human-blood chemistry.

"This is the most complete chemical characterization of blood ever done," said Wishart. "We now know the normal values of all the detectable chemicals in blood. Doctors can use these measurements as a reference point for monitoring a patient's current and even future health."

Wishart says blood chemicals are the "canary in the coal mine" for catching the first signs of an oncoming medical problem. "The blood chemistry is the first thing to change when a person is developing a dangerous condition like high cholesterol."

The database created by Wishart and his team is open access, meaning anyone can log on and find the expanded list of blood chemicals. Wishart says doctors can now tap into the collected wisdom of hundreds of blood-research projects done in the past by researchers all over the world. "With this new database doctors can now link a specific abnormality in hundreds of different blood chemicals with a patient's specific medical problem," said Wishart.

Wishart believes the adoption of his research will happen slowly, with hospitals incorporating new search protocols and equipment for a few hundred of the more than 4,000 blood-chemistry markers identified.

"People have been studying blood for more than 100 years," said Wishart. "By combining research from the past with our new findings we have moved the science of blood chemistry from a keyhole view of the world to a giant picture window." ■

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Cannabis' active ingredient enhances appetite in cancer patients

Ken Mathewson

The active ingredient in marijuana has the ability to improve the taste and enjoyment of food in advanced cancer patients, a new study shows.

Wendy Wismer, a professor with the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, led a study that looked at 19 patients with advanced types of cancer, 11 of whom were given small doses of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC—the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana—while the remaining eight were given a placebo. The study is the first randomized, controlled trial to show that THC makes food taste better and improves appetites for patients with advanced cancer.

In Wismer's study, patients took pills and completed taste and smell surveys twice a day for 18 days and were then interviewed.

Of those taking THC, Wismer said nearly three quarters of them reported that their food tasted better and that 64 per cent of them said their appetite had increased. The majority of the patients taking a placebo said their appetites either decreased or didn't change at all. Only 10 per cent of them claimed that the taste of food improved.

Cancer patients typically have a dramatically reduced desire to eat.



Wendy Wismer (left) uses a "sniffing stick" in order to test the nasal chemosensory performance of a student.

Festival celebrates in the classroom

Jamie Hanlon

What about yours? Milton Schlosser likes to keep his focused, passionate and curious. Tim Parker likes to challenge his. Roxanne Hard likes to help her take ownership of their experience. Billy Streat has a whole bag of tricks to motivate his.

All four professors have opened their classes to the university public to see how they engage the public, and they are only a sampling of the more than 100 classes students, staff, faculty and alumni can observe as part of the Festival of Teaching running March 7 to 10.

"It's an opportunity to come away with new ideas," said festival co-chair Anne Naeth. "They get to see different approaches, different methods and explore various teaching styles."

And it's not just the attendees who gain from this experience either, says Naeth. The instructor-participants gain from having been part of the synergy and success of the festival. They also have the opportunity to draw feedback and interaction from the observers post-event. "I know a lot of the instructors are very excited about being part of this year's festival," she said.

With ~~so many~~ class schedules to choose from over the course of the four days, including a day dedicated to Augustana Campus, there is an opportunity to observe a wide variety of classes covering the social and physical sciences, humanities, music, native studies and law. Course schedules can be found online. For more information, please contact Karen Unger at karen.unger@ualberta.ca.

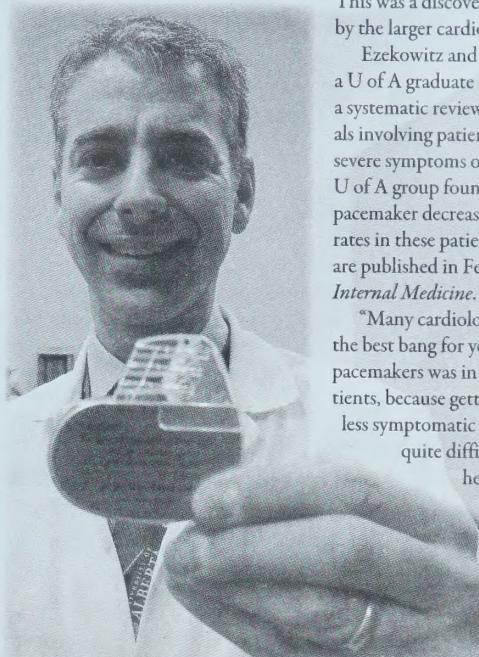
Made-at-the-U of A pacemaker passes the test

Quinn Phillips

Victor Timmins was having trouble doing even the simplest tasks; even walking was difficult.

"My health was failing," said Timmins. "I couldn't do anything; I was completely pooped."

After living with fairly severe heart failure, Timmins received the newest type of pacemaker called cardiac



Justin Ezekowitz and the cardiac resynchronization therapy pacemaker.

resynchronization therapy in February of 2009. It allows both the left and right ventricles to synchronize and beat together.

Timmins was a perfect candidate for this pacemaker because of his symptoms. It's people with less severe symptoms who are harder to treat. But Justin Ezekowitz, a University of Alberta cardiologist, has found that people with less severe symptoms than Timmins will do well with this device. This was a discovery not anticipated by the larger cardiology community.

Ezekowitz and his team, including a U of A graduate student, conducted a systematic review of 25 clinical trials involving patients who have less severe symptoms of heart failure. The U of A group found this new type of pacemaker decreased illness and death rates in these patients. The findings are published in February's *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Many cardiologists had felt that the best bang for your buck with these pacemakers was in the more severe patients, because getting a large benefit in less symptomatic patients is actually quite difficult to achieve with heart-failure therapy," said Ezekowitz.

One of the largest studies his team reviewed was done in Ottawa. Given the length of

this trial and its rigour, especially when considered along with the results of another trial that had similar results, it's quite clear this therapy can help this group of patients, Ezekowitz said.

As well as reducing illness and death rates, use of this pacemaker reduces the number of hospital visits from patients in this group, so there's also potential for lowering health-care costs.

"A cost-benefit analysis needs to be done," said Ezekowitz. "Generally, if you think that at least half of expenses for heart failure are hospitalization-based, anything that reduces that hospitalization burden is likely to have some incremental benefit."

The findings of this scientific systematic review will likely influence the recommendations of clinical practice guideline committees and change how these patients are treated. In Edmonton, Ezekowitz says it is likely change will happen quickly.

"Our electro-physiologists are already open to changing their practice, effective immediately," said Ezekowitz.

As Timmins is showing, it would be hard to deny the benefits of this device for heart failure patients. His health has improved so much he's hoping to get back to swimming.

"I've been great since; I can do things I couldn't do before," said the 81-year-old. "You don't need to worry about your heart; this is an aid to keep it in rhythm. Without it I don't think I'd be talking to you today."

GFC COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEES TO WHICH GFC ELECTS MEMBERS: ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED

The terms of office of a number of academic and support staff members serving on General Faculties Council (GFC) standing committees and on committees and appeal boards to which GFC elects members will expire on June 30, 2011. The GFC Nominating Committee (NC) is seeking academic and support staff members to fill the following vacancies for terms normally three (3) years in length, beginning July 1, 2011.

GFC Standing Committee and Appeal Boards	Staff Vacancies	Meeting Times
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	TWO academic staff members (Category A1.0)	2:00 pm/ twice monthly, Alternating Wednesdays
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	ONE academic staff member (Category A1.0) who is a former Associate Dean, Discipline Officer (DO) or University Appeals Board Chair ONE staff member (Categories A1.0, A2.0 or B1.0)	9:30 am/4 th Thursday
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes an optimal learning environment in alignment with guiding documents of the University of Alberta.	ONE academic staff member (Category A1.0)	2:00 pm/1 st Wednesday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, use of land, parking and transportation facilities.	ONE academic staff member (Category A1.0) who is NOT from the Faculties of Native Studies or Arts as these Faculties have representation on FDC	1:30 pm/4 th Thursday
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Rutherford, William Hardy Alexander, Provost's and Teaching Unit Awards.	TWO academic staff members (Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6) and ONE academic staff member (Category A2.1) who are NOT from the Faculties of Education or Nursing as these Faculties have representation on UTAC	Normally 3 times a year (Sept, Mar and Apr)
GFC ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides student appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides student appeals and applicant appeals regarding disciplinary decisions made under the Code of Student Behaviour or Code of Applicant Behaviour.	AAC: TWO academic staff members (Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6 or on post-retirement contract) on the Panel of Chairs UAB: ONE academic staff member for the Panel of Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearings are scheduled as needed Monday to Thursday. Hearings normally start at 4:30 or 5:00 PM, and last 3 to 5 hours.
Committee/Body to Which GFC Elects Members	Staff Vacancies	Meeting Times
DEPARTMENT CHAIR SELECTION COMMITTEE: Members are chosen in rotation from a panel of 15 to serve on Department Chair selection committees.	SIX academic staff members (Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6)	Constituted as selection processes are initiated
SENATE: Links with the community and is an independent advisory body of community leaders.	ONE academic staff member (Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6); MUST be members of GFC	4 times a year
EXTENSION FACULTY COUNCIL: Represents University interests on Extension's Faculty Council.	THREE academic staff members (Category A1.0) who are not members of the Faculty of Extension	Average of 6 times a year
HENRY MARSHALL TORY CHAIR SELECTION COMMITTEE:	ONE academic staff member (Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6)	Constituted as selection processes are initiated

Information about GFC committees is available on the University Governance website at <http://www/governance.ualberta.ca/>. Definitions of Categories of Staff are found by going to the above-noted website and accessing the GFC Policy Manual, Section 5.1.4. All nominations should be accompanied by a brief biographical sketch (max. 150 words) and directed to Marlene Lewis, Coordinator, GFC Nominating Committee, Room 3-20 University Hall (780.492.1938) or by e-mail to marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca by **Monday, March 21, 2011**.

news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to www.expressnews.ualberta.ca.

Nutrition in pregnancy study still recruiting

Though women know they must eat well during pregnancy, researchers at the University of Alberta hope to help them make more informed decisions with the Alberta Pregnancy Outcomes and Nutrition study.

The team looks at pregnant women's nutritional intake and how this impacts their physical and mental health, as well as the baby's development. "One of the first questions a woman asks her doctor is how much weight she should gain during pregnancy", says Catherine Field, a professor with the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, and a lead investigator with the study.

Field says they hope to gain some understanding of what women eat during pregnancy, what supplements they might be taking, what activities they participate in and how they feel before and after giving birth. This large-scale study is still looking to recruit thousands of participants who are less than 27 weeks pregnant, and, by participating, women will help advance the knowledge of nutrition on a mother's health and wellness and her baby's development. For more information call 780-492-4667, or check out the website at www.apronstudy.ca.

Research VP says social sciences at core of innovation

Lorne Babiuk says innovation cannot work effectively without input from researchers in the social sciences, and that their contributions are absolutely important. Babiuk, the vice-president (research), made the comments during a panel discussion held on campus earlier this month that examined the relationship between basic and applied research on innovation.

"We can have the best technology in the world, but if we don't use input from our social-science colleagues to be able to help us understand what society may accept or not, we may have the best product in the world, but we will never get the full benefit of that technology," said Babiuk.

Recent examples of the ways that the U of A fosters interdisciplinary research include establishing a new Scholar in Residence for Arts Research in Nanotechnology and supporting an ongoing international exhibition, "Perceptions of Promise: Biotechnology, Society and Art."

"True innovation requires an interdisciplinary approach. We now have to start looking at the convergence of disciplines, and we need to be able to find ways to fund programs across disciplines," said Babiuk.

Woman of the Year nominations sought

The Woman of the Year Award is given to a University of Alberta woman in recognition of her contributions to the betterment of women in the university community, either through the course of her career or through her dedication to current activism.

The award is presented by the Academic Women's Association; however, it is open to all female staff and faculty on campus. The nomination should clearly communicate the reasons for the nomination and detail her contributions and should not be longer than two pages, including a brief (200 words) biographical summary. The submission must be signed by the person submitting the nomination. Deadline for nomination is noon, March 4, 2011. For information on nomination submissions, including mailing address, contact Holli Bjerland, AWA president, at holli.bjerland@ualberta.ca.

Aging conference comes to campus

Population aging is a key feature of the early 21st century. In all world regions, proportions of older adults are increasing rapidly. Yet often they are invisible in the face of other global challenges such as climate change, poverty and economic and political migration that have dominated the international stage.

The Global Social Initiative on Aging is a new activity of the International Association of Gerontology. Its mission is to foster collaborative, trans-national approaches to the creation and transfer of knowledge at the intersections of global trends and population aging. A strategic planning meeting will be held at the University of Alberta in the Department of Human Ecology on March 29-31. Its purpose is to launch the GSIA and to create an international research agenda and implementation plan. The meeting will bring together twelve world-renowned social scientists to create an international research agenda and implementation plan. For more information, contact Jacquie Eales at Jacquie.eales@ualberta.ca.

Augustana's Gusdal named ACAC's coach of the year

The Alberta Colleges Athletic Association has chosen Blaine Gusdal of the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus as the 2010-2011 ACAC Men's Hockey Coach of the year.

Gusdal has worked hard to create a successful team culture and is committed to building an excellent student-athlete experience on campus. In fact, his team sports a 3.0 GPA on a very academically demanding campus. The ACAC has further recognized U of A Augustana men's hockey team by selecting several of their athletes for the 2010-11 All-Conference Men's Hockey Teams. Torrie Dyk was selected as a forward on team one, with defenseman Brad Bourke and forwards Scott Aucoin and Dan Hope selected for team two. ■

Lizards get play on *Nature of Things* website

Michel Proulx

A chance encounter with a film crew from CBC's *Nature of Things* television program is giving an environmental and conservation sciences master's student a few minutes of fame.

Krista Fink was doing field work, looking for greater short-horned lizards in Grasslands National Park in southern Saskatchewan, when she met the crew, who were filming an episode for the popular science documentary series about the re-introduction of black-footed ferrets, an endangered species, on the Canadian prairies.

During the filming for the episode, the crew was also looking for other projects being conducted on other species at risk. Fink's project fit the bill.

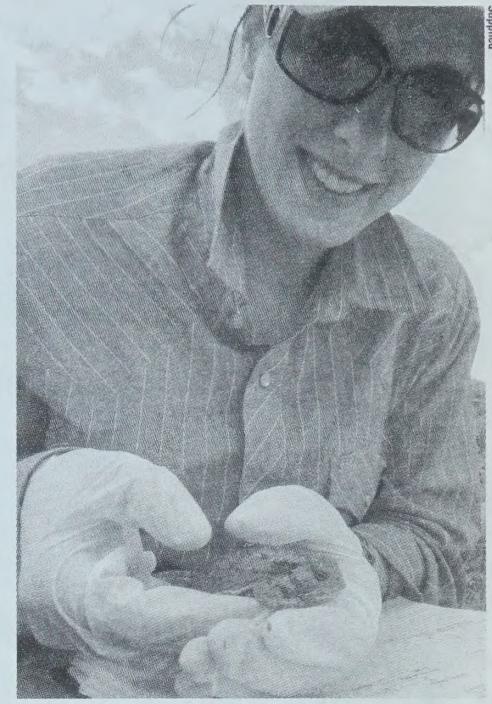
The second-year master's student, who is supervised by renewable resources professor Scott Nielsen and adjunct professor Shelley Pruss, is examining the impact temperature has on greater short-horned lizard's choice of habitat.

In Saskatchewan, the northern edge of the lizards' habitat range seems to be the northern limit of Grasslands Provincial Park, located in the southern part of the province. Fink spent considerable time exploring a pasture 30 kilometres north of the park along the same river system and didn't find any lizards.

"The northern limit of their habitat seems quite well defined," she says, "and I'm trying to figure out if it has to do with temperature. If the lizard is in one place and not another, is there something different between the thermal characteristics (the heat and how it is arranged) in the two spots? If one spot has constant temperature and the other spot is patchy, do they prefer to be in one space or another?"

Fink says the lizards shuffle between hot and cold spots, and because of their small size, their habitat seems to need to have a variance in temperature in small areas.

Fink hopes her project will be able to help determine



Graduate student Krista Fink holds a short-horned lizard.

with greater accuracy the temperature needs of the lizards and help their habitat to be better managed.

In the meantime, she's quite pleased having her work profiled on *The Nature of Things*' website along with other videos dealing with species at risk in the same park.

"I think any time we can get our research out there in a more accessible format than your standard scientific journals, it's pretty valuable." ■

classified ads

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GREAT CENTRAL LOCATION. 2-bedroom, 1.5 bath condo. Clean, quiet, secure building. Easy access to U of A. Heat, water and underground parking included. Laundry on site, no charge. Available immediately. \$1,250/month. Contact Barb Partridge 780-484-0159.

HERITAGE HOUSE OLD STRATHCONA. One bed, one bath, newly renovated, large balcony, gorgeous city view, walking distance to U of A, public transport and all amenities. \$900/month. Contact Reinhold 780-436-5849 or rb.nomad@gmail.com.

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ALES students head to Cuba for lessons in organic farming

Ken Mathewson

Organic produce has become a popular choice among many Canadians. However, as the students who embarked on this year's agro-tour to Cuba discovered, the agricultural shift to organic produce is sometimes due to necessity.

Students learned first hand, through volunteering at various farms around the island, how the Cuban farmers maximize agricultural outputs without the use of the pesticides and machinery commonly used by their industrial counterparts.

"It's really amazing how much they accomplish with so little," said third-year student Kelsey Reimer, who is studying for a bachelor of science degree in agriculture. "Absolutely nothing gets wasted there. They find uses for everything."

The students, who are studying agro-ecology in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, took part in the tour in January as a part of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences' continuing efforts to give students the chance to marry real-world

applications with their academic curricula. The trip, say organizers, is only one of the many ways students are encouraged to participate in outreach opportunities while attending university.

The agricultural initiatives in the island nation have shifted to a predominantly rural, organic structure in order to compensate for the lack of resources necessary for large-scale farming. Jane King, the professor in the department and trip organizer, said that the Cuban government has been forced to restructure its agricultural initiatives since the disbanding of the Soviet Union.

"Cuba was supported largely by the USSR," said King. "They provided them with cheap oil and bought their sugar at roughly four times the market price. When the Soviet bloc fell apart at the end of the 1980s, all of that support was gone."

Traditionally, Cuba had imported the majority of its produce, utilizing their agricultural terrain for the production of tobacco and sugar cane, but with the fall of the Iron Curtain, they suddenly lacked the financial ability to purchase commodities from other countries.

With food shortages approaching critical

levels, the government opted to decentralize food production, establishing many small-scale organic farms within both rural and urban areas in order to reduce spoilage and minimize transportation requirements. These "organoponcos," which now provide Cubans with more than 90 per cent of their produce, use a variety of agro-ecological techniques, such as mixed cropping, crop rotation and natural pest controls in lieu of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

According to Lloyd Dosdall, professor of agricultural entomology, the practices learned by the group could have practical applications in large-scale farming here in Alberta.

"The impact of using less insecticide can be enormous," said Dosdall. "For example, farmers might spend up to \$11 an acre treating canola for insect pests. So if we can bypass that input cost, farmers are bound to save economically, and at the same time make the whole industry more competitive and more sustainable."

The students from the U of A who participated in the tour took the opportunity to learn the various techniques used in organic farming.



Michelina Kierzek pushes through the jungle in Cuba.

and despite the heat and the physical demands of the volunteer work they performed, expressed appreciation for the insight into the Cuban culture that the experiences afforded them.

"We did a lot of weeding and packaging soil," said Caren Jones, a second-year environmental and conservation sciences student. "Some of us went to the dairy farm and fed the calves. Then at our second hotel, we picked up all of the garbage off the beach, but it never felt like work. I really enjoyed being a visitor and not a tourist." ■

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on ExpressNews at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Feb. 28

Department of Cell Biology

Visiting Speaker. Darren Boehning, professor in the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology, University of Texas. 9:30-10:30 a.m. 628 Medical Sciences.

"SEE the research at work"

Seminar Series. Policy Making on Climate Issues: the Place of Citizen Deliberation. David Kahane and Jennifer Medlock lead Alberta Climate Dialogue, a community-university research collaboration working with municipal and provincial governments to engage Albertans on climate issues. Registration starts at noon. Seminar starts at 12:15 p.m. Aurora Room, Lister Centre.

March 2-4

Richard Frucht Memorial Lecture Series & Anthropology Student Conference

Keynote Speaker Dr. Monica Heller Public Lecture, March 2 at 7:30 p.m., TL B 1; March 4 at 3:30 p.m., T BW 1.

March 2

I've Been Awarded – Now What?

The Research Services Office authorizes and activates projects for researchers receiving research funding. This session will explain the process of setting up a research project from which researchers can spend. Topics include will include required documentation and avoiding delays. 10-11:30 a.m. 2-117 Clinical

Sciences. Register at <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=4798>.

Share Your Fare Food Festival.

Enjoy foods and delicacies from around the world. Food Tickets: \$2 each or 6 tickets for \$10. Bring your friends along to enjoy. Event hosted by Nutrition Food Science Student Association. Portion of proceeds go to Kids Kottage. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 2nd Floor, Foyer Agriculture/Forestry Centre.

Kapralova – Czech Republic string quartet. Concert offered by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences of Alberta as a tribute to the Wirth Institute Director Franz Szabo. "Neglected Masterpieces by Czech Composers," Works by Vranicky Czerny and Dvorak. Pre-concert lecture at 6:30 p.m. General admission: \$20. Students: \$10. Tickets available at the door or by calling 780-492-1444. 7:30 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall.

March 4

Wabonwa Night.

Engineers Without Borders is hosting Wabonwa Night, a wine and cheese event at Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe. Tickets are \$25 for students and \$35 for professionals. This huge networking opportunity features an inspiring address from the Co-CEO of EWB George Roter, entertainment, and a silent auction to fundraise for EWB's overseas projects in Africa. 7 p.m.

March 5

Campus Food Bank Powerplay Cup.

The 2011 Powerplay Cup is an indoor soccer tournament that benefits the University of Alberta's Campus Food Bank. If you are interested in registering a team, volunteering, sponsoring or donating to this event, please check out the Powerplay Cup website for details (<http://ppc.campusfoodbank.com/>).

Shanghai Quartet. The Shanghai Quartet has won international acclaim as a passionate champion of new music and cross-cultural expression. The group performs Franz Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" quartet, "Matador's Prayer" by Joaquin Turina, excerpts from "China Song" by Yi-Wen Jiang, and the Canadian premiere of the String Quartet no. 2 by Edmonton-born composer Vivian Fung. 8 p.m. Arts and Convocation Hall.

March 8

Public Health Colloquium Series.

Our Colloquium Series provides an opportunity for participants to learn from faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and PhD students who share their current research. A wide variety of public health topics, ranging from health promotion to global health, will be addressed in these one-hour sessions. Speaker: Zubia Mumtaz will present "Gender, caste and unequal access to maternal health care services noon - 12:50 p.m. Room 3-06 University Terrace.

Battling Persistent Viral Infections: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

Persistent viral infections remain major causes of morbidity and mortality in both the developed and developing world. The U of A's Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology is working to develop improved vaccines to combat these infections and to identify effective antiviral agents for treatment. Join Lorne Tyrrell, 2011 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Inductee, as he discusses the Institute's work. 4:30-6:45 p.m.

Building the Next Generation Feedstocks for the Bioeconomy.

Stan Blade is the chief executive officer of the Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions Corporation. The new corporation will invest in innovation that delivers value to Alberta's agriculture and forestry sectors, and to all Albertans. AI-Bio will work with stakeholders to provide strategic leadership and investment to create prosperous and sustainable agriculture and forestry industries. 5:30 p.m. 2-009 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC).

March 10

Cell Biology Students' Association Distinguished Speaker Lecture Series.

Nevan Krogan, University of California, San Francisco. 3:30-4:30 p.m. 628 Medical Sciences.

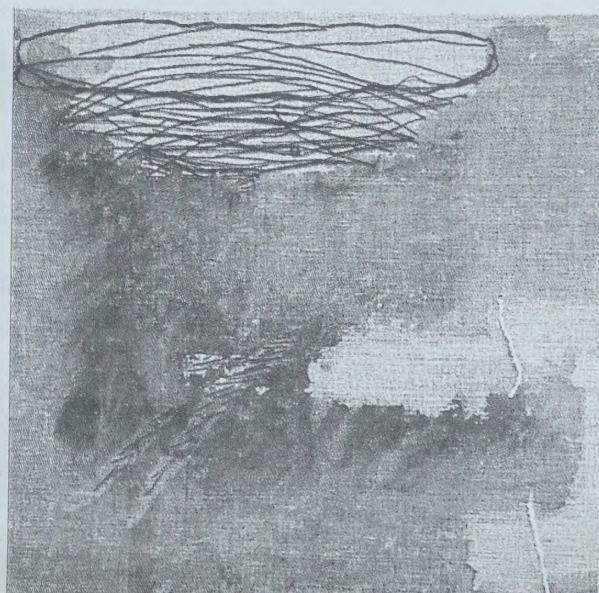
Educated Wallet – The Smart Money, Investment Seminar. The Smart Money is an opportunity for you to learn simple and sensible how-tos from alumnus Jim Yih, author, columnist and financial expert. 6:30-9:30 p.m. TELUS Centre 236, \$25 per person (includes a light dinner). Visit our website to register online, www.ualberta.ca/alumni/educatedwallet.

March 11

Annual Shevchenko Lecture.

45th Annual Shevchenko Lecture. "Shevchenko and Gogol": The Ukrainian Intelligentsia in Imperial Culture". Speaker, Oleh Ilnytzkyj, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies 7 p.m. 1-05 Business and Learning Complex (ETLC).

Murmurs overheard in FAB



"#61" is part of Hope Wells' Murmurs exhibit on at the FAB Gallery from March 1-26. The display is Wells' final visual representation for the degree of master of fine arts in painting.

laurels

Lorne Babiuk, vice-president (research), is the co-author on a paper that has been selected by "Lancet," one of the world's leading medical journals, as the paper of the year for 2010. He and his fellow researchers submitted a paper on the effects of influenza vaccinations in children on Hutterite colonies, which was published in The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Lisa Given, professor in the School of Library and Information Studies, has been appointed to a Federal Panel on Research Ethics. The panel was created in 2001 by Canada's three federal research agencies, Canadian Institute of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The panel develops, interprets and implements the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.

Gita Sharma, chair of Aboriginal health and professor in global and Aboriginal health in the Faculty of Medicine &

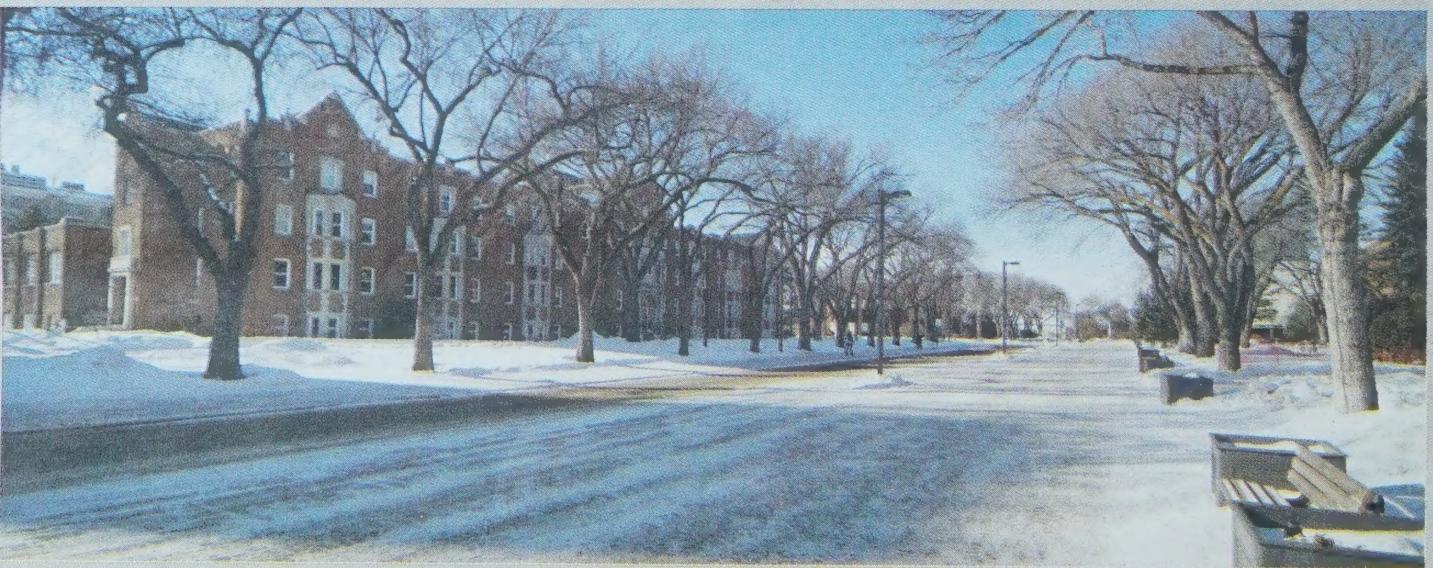
Dentistry, has received an International Polar Year grant from Indian and Northern Affairs to continue her research on nutritional epidemiology in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Aminah Robinson Fayeck, professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has received the 2011 Walter Shanly Award for outstanding contributions to the development and practice of construction engineering in Canada from the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering.

Donna Goodwin, professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, have been named a fellow of the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity.

Todd Lowary, professor in the Department of Chemistry, has been elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Jan Jagodzinski, professor in the Department of Secondary Education, has received the Manuel Barkan Memorial Award from the National Art Education Association.



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22 - 25

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